

SECOND  
ATTACK  
ON PARIS

A Zeppelin Was Driven Off  
Last Night After Dropping Bombs Which Did No Damage, According to the French Official Report as Made To-day

ANTI-AIR CRAFT GUNS  
WERE EFFECTIVE

When Used in Conjunction with Aeroplanes in Warding off Attack—In Saturday Night's Raid, 24 People Were Killed and 27 Were Injured

The second Zeppelin raid on Paris within two days was officially reported to-day to have taken place Sunday night, but the city and its people escaped harm. The statement says that while the airship dropped a number of bombs, no damage was done. Anti-aircraft guns and aeroplanes attacked the raider, which apparently fell to the ground with several missiles at once when pursued. Most of the bombs fell in fields or other open spaces. There have been no further attacks on the list of casualties from Saturday night's raid, which were officially given out as 24 killed and 27 injured.

While isolated encounters and much artillery and mining activity are reported, comparative quiet seems to have settled down again upon the western fighting front, where the Germans recently have reported notable successes, particularly in making considerable gain south of the river Somme. French counter-operations, however, probably are to be looked for shortly in this zone of fighting.

In the eastern war theatre, no recent activities resulting in appreciable change of front are reported. Some activity is being displayed in the Balkans and on the Caucasian front, where the Turks and Russians are clashing near Erzerum. Athens reiterates the reports received through diplomatic channels that the Russians surrounding Erzerum have inflicted fresh defeat on the Turks, who are fortifying hastily positions much to the westward towards Constantinople.

TWO GERMAN  
ATTACKS FAILED

Paris Reports That Hand Grenades Were Used in Vain Last Night Near Hill No. 140.

Paris, Jan. 31.—The German forces last night delivered two attacks with hand grenades near hill No. 140, both of which resulted in failure, according to the French official announcement given out this afternoon.

FRENCH ATTACKS  
ALL BEATEN OFF

Germans Say They Have Failed to Regain Ground About Neuville Recently Lost to the Teutons.

Berlin, via London, Jan. 31.—The French have been making repeated attempts to regain the ground recently lost near Neuville, the army headquarters announced to-day, but all their attacks have been beaten off, the Germans still holding their newly won trenches.

ITALY TO SEND AID  
INTO ALBANIA

German News Agency Says That Italy Considers Effective Defense of Southern Section a Necessity.

Berlin, via wireless, Jan. 31.—Italy has decided to continue her campaign in Albania, according to Vienna advices given out to-day by the Overseas news agency, and it is said to have landed an additional infantry division and several batteries of heavy artillery at Avlona. "Italy will not give up Albania," the agency says. "She considers the effective defense of the southern part of the country a military and political necessity." Other reports state that Italy is lacking sufficient troops of her own and has asked for help from England and France.

## NAVAL BATTLE EXPECTED.

Both Germans and British Show Activity on Norwegian Coast.

Christiania, via London, Jan. 31.—Extraordinary British and German naval activity has been in evidence along the coast the past few days, according to the Stavanger correspondent of Morgenbladet.

dot, who adds that a clash is possible at any time. A number of British warships and German submarines have been observed just outside territorial waters.

A steamer, arriving from England Saturday, continues the correspondent, was stopped by a British cruiser who fired a shot across her bow. The steamer was inspected and passed. The Swedish steamer, Edith, from Lubeck, which has arrived at Stavanger, saw a large number of British destroyers, but was not detained.

On Saturday another Swedish steamer was pursued by a German submarine close to the Læder coast and saved herself by entering territorial waters. A large British cruiser and a big submarine were sighted off Utsire.

Reports from various parts of the Læder coast say that a number of cruisers and destroyers have been seen going southward very close to land. A Norwegian destroyer has gone out on patrol.

## STEAMER DAMAGED.

Philadelphia of American Line Collided with a Liverpool Freighter.

London, Jan. 31.—The American line steamer Philadelphia has been in a collision with the Liverpool steamer Ben Lee, 12 miles south of Caranarvon bay. Lloyd's reports the Philadelphia putting back into the Mersey, the extent of the damage to her being unknown. The Ben Lee was waterlogged, but her crew was rescued.

## BRITISH LOSSES IN JANUARY

Totalled 1,079 Officers and 19,625 Men.

London, Jan. 31.—The British casualties, published during the month of January, totalled 1,079 officers and 19,624 men.

ANXIETY IS FELT  
FOR K SUBMARINE

U. S. Navy Department Has Not Received Word from the Missing Vessel—Many Ships Are Searching for Her.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 31.—The United States submarine K-5, which became separated from a flotilla of submarines while en route for maneuvers at Key West, has not been reported to-day although her sister ships are all safe at Charleston. Half a dozen naval vessels and coast guard cutters have searched for the little vessel in a heavy fog to-day and repeated unsuccessful efforts have been made to reach her by wireless.

Although the officials admittedly are anxious as to the safety of the vessel, it was pointed out that any one of several minor accidents might have delayed the submarine or put her wireless out of commission. All the boats of the K class, the officials said, have proved themselves seaworthy and efficient.

The wireless sending radius of the missing vessel was only 50 miles, which it was said might account for the failure to answer signals from the searching vessels. Probably only six or eight men were on the submarine.

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 31.—Reports reached here last night from apparently reliable sources that one of four submarines of the K type, en route from the New York navy yard to Pensacola, Fla., had been missing since one o'clock Sunday morning. Capt. Benjamin C. Bryan, commandant of the Charleston navy yard, refused to affirm or deny the report.

The Monitor Tallahassee and three submarines of the K type, said to be the K-1, K-2 and K-6, arrived at Charleston Bar early last night, but did not enter because of the fog. The buoy tender Mangrove left Charleston apparently to ward Cape Roman off the Carolina coast northward of here, where, it was said, the submarine was last sighted. The K-15 was one of the four submarines en route to Pensacola.

New York, Jan. 31.—The submarine K-1, K-2, K-5 and K-6, each carrying a crew of from six to eight men, sailed from here Friday for Key West for winter maneuvers along the Florida coast. They were accompanied by the submarine tender Tallahassee.

All the New York navy yard, where the submarines had undergone repairs for several months, it was said no word maneuvers along the Florida coast. They left here. All were supposed to be in perfect condition.

WILSON GUARDED  
VERY CLOSELY

125 Policemen and 25 Secret Service Men Surrounded His Train When It Stopped in Chicago To-day.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—President Wilson passed through Chicago to-day en route from Cleveland to Milwaukee, where he is to deliver an address this afternoon, which some of his party believe to be one of the most important of his tour to advocate national defense.

Because of the large foreign-born population of Milwaukee, it was thought the president would touch on the duties of naturalized Americans in their adopted country in connection with the preparedness policy. Twenty-five secret service men and 125 policemen guarded the four cars bearing the presidential party during their brief stop in Chicago.

## ADMIRAL BARKER DEAD.

Served in United States Navy from 1862 to 1905.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 31.—Rear Admiral S. Barker, U. S. N., retired, who served from 1862 to 1905, died at his home here yesterday of pneumonia.

Admiral Barker was a native of Hingham, Mass., and was 72 years old. He became ensign in 1862 and took part in the capture of New Orleans. During the Spanish-American war he was a member of the board of strategy. Later he was commander of the North Atlantic fleet. Admiral Barker is credited with having been the first naval officer in the United States to fire high explosives in shells.

PORTER FLED  
FROM TRAIN

When Immigration Inspector Found a Chinaman Locked in a Berth

MADE FLYING LEAP  
NEAR EAST SWANTON

Chinaman Is Being Held at St. Albans for a Hearing

St. Albans, Jan. 31.—As W. C. Robie, an immigration officer, was going through train No. 6 on the Central Vermont railroad, which was due to arrive here at midnight Saturday night, he found a Chinaman locked in an upper berth of the Springfield sleeper. When the discovery was made the porter was watching the inspector and he ran to the rear car and jumped off the train. The train was not moving rapidly, and it is supposed that he was not injured, as officers went back some time later and could find no trace of the man. The place where he jumped off was about a mile north of East Swanton.

The Chinaman was brought to the jail in this city, where he is being held for a hearing. He gave the name of Wong Ling.

TRIPLE MURDER  
WAS FOR MONEY

Bodies Found in a Tenement House at Kingston, R. I.—All Three Had Been Shot, and Two Were Mutilated with Axes.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 31.—Oscar Olsen, 37, and Gustav Olsen, 35, brothers, both section hands for the New Haven railroad, and William Rhodes, 40, colored, were found murdered, in a tenement house, formerly the old railroad station at Kingston, yesterday.

All three men had been shot, and the Olsens had also been mutilated with an axe. The room presented a scene of violence and disorder. Rhodes was apparently headed for the door when a shot through the neck severed his jugular vein. A section hand named James Morris is sought by the police all over the state. Morris, who went to work for the New Haven road a little over a week ago, is said to have been seen leaving the scene of the murder about 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

The crime was not discovered until late in the day, when John Smith, a section foreman for the railroad, and Fred E. Babcock, a track policeman, while passing the building, noticed tools scattered around the door. Intending to warn the Olsens to take care of their tools, Smith stepped to the door of the house.

The three bodies, drenched in blood, confronted him as he entered the door. Sheriff John R. Wilcox of Washington county, Deputy Sheriff Charles Bennett, and Town Sergeant Isaac T. Hopkins began an investigation of the crime soon afterward. Circumstances indicate that the murder of the three men, at least of the two Olsens, was carefully planned, with robbery as the motive. Although there are houses within a few hundred feet of the old station, no one heard any shooting, and it is supposed the murderer waited his time and covered his act under the noise of a passing train.

The Olsen brothers were known to have had considerable money saved up, and on one day last week Rhodes is said to have displayed a roll of more than \$200. So eager, apparently, was the murderer of the men to get at their money that some of the pockets were ripped from the rest of the clothing. He slashed open the overalls which one of the Olsens wore, in order to get at the pocket containing money.

Little is known of the man known as James Morris, for whom the police are looking. He went to work for the New Haven road only last Thursday and since that time had been living with the Olsens. He told no one, unless possibly the Olsens, anything about himself.

The old station where the murder was committed was formerly the Kingston station. It was abandoned about 36 years ago and later converted into a tenement for section men. Previous to its occupancy by the Olsens, it had been used at intervals by various gangs of laborers.

LAMAR LOST  
HIS APPEAL

Supreme Court Upholds Conviction on Charge of Impersonating U. S. Officer with Intent to Defraud.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 31.—David Lamar, convicted in the New York federal courts on the charge of impersonating an officer of the United States, has been brought to to-day. The New York court is now free to enforce its penitentiary sentence.

L. E. Colburn's Actions in Franklin County To Be Investigated.

St. Albans, Jan. 31.—L. E. Colburn, who was arrested in Swanton, has been brought to the county jail here to be held pending an investigation of his suspected connection with a "potato chip" game. He was taken on a case growing out of the purchase of a pair of shoes on memoranda.

TO BEAT DISEASE,  
KILLED HIMSELF

Burlington Man Used Revolver, Bullet Entering His Forehead—Was Found By Daughter Who Fainted.

Burlington, Jan. 31.—Gerardo Compobasso, 75 years old, shot and instantly killed himself yesterday afternoon with a .38-calibre revolver, taking that way out of life rather than allow Bright's disease to run its course. He was known to have been in a despondent mood and had told many of his neighbors that it was his intention to take his life rather than live an idle life. It was his daughter-in-law, with whom he lived, who first reached the man after he had committed suicide. She was sleeping in a bed room on the opposite side of the kitchen from the room in which Compobasso was sitting and was awakened by a sound which she supposed was made by a stone thrown against the window pane by a child. She ran into the other room and there found her father sitting with a smoking revolver in his right hand, his head resting back against the wall with blood streaming from a wound in his temple. He was dead and the woman after arousing others in the house fell in a faint.

The man took his life with his own revolver. It was a five-chambered gun and when taken from the dead man's hand contained three cartridges and one empty shell, one of the chambers having not been loaded. He had kept the revolver in a pail hanging from the ceiling up to a few weeks ago when it disappeared. Compobasso was born in Italy. He has lived in this country since a young man.

## MONTPELIER

Taxes Amounting to \$356.32 Were Abated Saturday Evening.

Taxes amounting to \$356.32, not including the balance of the 1909 tax which was not collected, were abated Saturday evening at a meeting of the board of civil authority held at 7:30 o'clock in the city council chambers. A number of persons appeared and showed reasons why they should not pay a tax for 1915 resulting in \$124 being abated. The summary of the amounts abated follows: Dust laying tax for 1914, \$16.81; balance of 1909 tax, book abated; 1910 regular tax, \$24, special tax \$2.25; 1911 regular tax, \$40, special \$2.75; 1912 regular \$48.75, special \$6.50; 1913 regular \$40.25; 1914, \$50; 1915, \$124.

Judge Harland B. Howe of St. Johnsbury and Clerk F. S. Platt of Rutland are expected to arrive in the city this evening in readiness for the two days' session of United States court to be held for naturalization purposes in the federal building. Court will convene tomorrow forenoon at 10 o'clock for the purpose of holding hearings preparatory to the granting of the final citizenship papers.

The February term of supreme court opens to-morrow morning at the State House at 10 o'clock. It is expected that the term will be a busy one inasmuch as there are many cases listed for trial which were transferred from the January calendar.

William Grady, agent at Montpelier Junction, who has been seriously ill with the grippe, threatened with pneumonia, is improving. His place is being taken by Thomas Lee of Burlington.

Miss Bessie Rees left this morning for Sharon, where she will make an extended visit with relatives.

A marriage license was issued Saturday to Richard M. Parker of Barre street and Miss Florence St. Mary of Franklin street.

In probate court to-day Hattie M. Richmond of Northfield was appointed executrix of the will of George H. Richmond, late of Northfield; Mrs. Adelaide Estee of Montpelier was appointed guardian of Allan J. Molly, Harry B. and George H. McLean, all minors of Montpelier; Arthur W. Locklin of Northfield was appointed administrator of the estate of John A. Locklin, late of Northfield.

Mrs. H. W. Dunton of Prospect street is improving rapidly at Boston hospital, where she was taken a week ago for treatment, and will be removed to her home to-morrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Lawrence returned Saturday evening from Boston and Lynn, Mass., where they made a two weeks' visit. Mr. Lawrence resumed his duties this forenoon in the office of the freight department of the Montpelier & Wells River railroad.

William Carey of Northfield street commenced to-day a two weeks' vacation from his duties as operator in the local office of the Western Union Telegraph company. The company, commencing this year, is to give all employees a two weeks' vacation with pay, but the employee must take the leave when it is offered and not choose his time as in years past. Mr. Carey expects to leave for Boston on the first of next week.

Mrs. A. Bernadine of 73 Main street left this morning for Concord, N. H., and Boston to make a week's visit with her mother and other relatives.

D. T. Donnelly left Sunday for Vergennes, where he assumes this week his duties as assistant postmaster, having been appointed to that position by his brother, John Donnelly. Mr. Donnelly, during his 17 years' residence in Montpelier, made a host of friends and a goodly number gathered at the station last evening to bid him farewell.

Harry Pratt returned this morning to Proctor, where he is employed, after a visit in the city with his parents.

With the schedule nearly half completed the Clerks have a fairly secure hold on first position in the city bowling league and the only other teams which seem to have a chance for the championship are the Eagles, Independents and Apollo club. The standing of the league follows:

	P. W. L.	Pct.
Clerks	24	4 .857
Eagles	19	5 .791
Independents	14	6 .700
Apollo	10	8 .666
Tenney	14	10 .558
Elks	10	14 .416
Italian-Spanish	9	19 .321
Bakers	6	18 .250
All Stars	0	16 .000

The high school basketball team was defeated by Stowe high school at Stowe Saturday evening by the score of 25 to 15.

POLISHING  
PLANT BURNED

Hardwick Polishing Co. at Hardwick Sustained a Serious Loss

INSURANCE WAS  
RECENTLY REDUCED

Cause of Last Night's Fire Has Not Been Determined

Hardwick, Jan. 31.—Fire which broke out at about 9:30 last evening destroyed the plant of the Hardwick Polishing company, and the loss is considerably larger than the insurance of \$1,500. It was only two weeks ago that the company caused the insurance on the property to be reduced from \$2,000 on the ground that the insurance rates were high. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

## ROBBERY AT CENTER RUTLAND

Postoffice and W. F. Byrne's Store Were Rifled Sunday Morning.

Rutland, Jan. 31.—Burglars entered the W. F. Byrne store which contains the Center Rutland postoffice early Sunday morning, which is the third time within the last three months. The stamp drawer and money order drawers in the postoffice department of the store were rifled. Entrance was gained through a rear window.

Just how much booty the thief or thieves lugged away could not be estimated by Mr. Byrne, but it is probable some money, shoes, jewelry, clothing and food were stolen.

After breaking out the window, the thief entered with the assistance of an oil pump, which was just inside the window, and from the appearance of the store he at once went to cutting cheese. Several large pieces were found about the store, one piece being on a shelf desk over the safe in the postoffice department. When the store was entered three months ago this time it was suspected that a young boy by the name of Raymond Mangano had committed the theft. The robbery was repeated a month ago and young Mangano was arrested and he has since been in the county jail.

## WAS NATIVE OF BROOKFIELD.

Rev. William H. Walbridge Died in Milford, N. H.—Funeral Sunday.

Milford, N. H., Jan. 31.—The funeral of Rev. William H. Walbridge was held from the Unitarian church yesterday afternoon. Rev. E. P. Daniels officiated and the church quartet sang. The Mass was had charge of the services, as Mr. Walbridge was a member of Royal Arch lodge and of Rochester commandery, Knights Templar. The bearers were Fred T. Wadleigh, Charles S. Emerson, Albert W. Turner and Deacon A. D. Wilson.

Rev. Mr. Walbridge died at his home on Mount Vernon street Thursday after a brief illness. He was born in Brookfield, Vt., in 1840, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Walbridge, and received his education in the Greenfield Theological seminary.

In 1861 he married Miss Fannie Burnham of Roxbury, Mass., and following her death, Mrs. E. F. Adams of Portland, Me. He is survived by three children, Charles F. Walbridge of Peterboro, Elmer B. Walbridge of the West Indies and Mrs. Lucy M. Annis of Rochester.

He was pastor of Unitarian churches in Stowe, Vt., Peterboro and Rochester, N. H. He served on the school boards of Peterboro and Rochester, and in Milford served six years as chairman of the school board, refusing re-election last spring. He was a member of the legislature in 1909 and 1911. Mr. Walbridge served throughout the Civil war with a battery of Massachusetts artillery.

## DEATH OF E. L. SIBLEY.

Bennington Manufacturer Died Yesterday of Apoplexy.

Bennington, Jan. 31.—Edward L. Sibley, formerly judge of the probate court and since 1885 a manufacturer of eyeglasses and stationery supplies, died at his home here yesterday of apoplexy. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.

Mr. Sibley was born in Bennington, May 24, 1855. He was graduated from Williams college in 1876 and admitted to the practice of law in this state. In 1878 he was elected judge of the probate court and held that office for 10 years.

The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon.

## SLUMP IN RADIUM.

As in Uranium But an Increase in Vanadium in 1915.

Radium, uranium, and vanadium are closely connected in occurrence in the principal fields, Colorado and Utah, but in 1915, although the European war caused a great slump in the production of ores of radium and uranium, it ceased a considerable increase in the production of ores in vanadium.

According to reports for 1915, received by the United States geological survey, and compiled by Frank L. Hess the output was 23.4 tons of uranium oxide and six grams of radium contained in the carbonate ores produced, and 535 tons of vanadium contained in the carbonate ores shipped and in the chemical concentrates from the mesquite ores. In 1914 the ores produced contained 87.2 tons uranium oxide, 22.3 grams radium, and 435 tons vanadium.

## DEATH OF GEORGE C. EARLE.

Former Resident of Barre Passed Away at Williamstown.

George C. Earle, a former resident of Barre and father of Mrs. H. A. Holt of 15 Walnut street, died Saturday at his home in Williamstown, of hardening of the arteries. During the past few years he had sustained a serious sickness, but recently he had felt so much improved that he had engaged in his occupation in a small way. His last illness started with an attack of the grippe.

George Cady Earle was born in East Randolph, the son of Cady Allen and Eunice (Booth) Earle, the date of his birth being February 7, 1848. With his parents he went to Williamstown when he was very young, and the greater part of his life was spent in that town. For fifteen years, however, he resided in Barre, being engaged first in trucking granite between stonehills and later conducting a harness shop. He moved back to Williamstown about fifteen years ago. He was a member of the Royal Arcanum in this city.

Mrs. Earle died four years ago in Williamstown. Mr. Earle is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Holt of this city, and one brother, Elden Earle who resides in Newark, N. J.

## WAS ILL FOR TWO YEARS.

Angelo Colombo, Granite Cutter, Died Saturday Afternoon.

Angelo Colombo, one of the better known residents of the Italian colony of Barre, died at his home, 16 George street, Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, the end following an illness of two years. The funeral will be held at the house Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will be made in Hope cemetery.

Mr. Colombo is survived by his wife and three sons, Harry Colombo, Angelo Colombo and Benedetto Colombo. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Santin Colombo, are residents of Breno, Usseria, Italy, where a sister, Miss Maria Colombo, also lives. Other relatives surviving include two brothers, Natale Colombo of Northfield and Battista Colombo of South Ryegate, two sisters, Mrs. Francesco Abbiati of Barre and Mrs. Gusto Alioso of South Ryegate, an aunt, Mrs. Theresa Gervasi of Barre, and two uncles, Alexander Colombo and Attilio Colombo, also of this city.

The deceased was born in Breno, Usseria, Sept. 29, 1866. In 1889 he came to America and settled in Concord, N. H., where he followed the granite cutting trade, a trade which he acquired as a young man in Italy. Five years later he moved to Barre, and had, therefore, been a resident of this city since 1894. His marriage to Miss Luigia Abbiati took place in Italy Aug. 14, 1892. Mr. Colombo was for several years employed as a cutter by the Harrison Granite company. His death has brought sorrow to many people in the Italian community.

## ZINDER—MC CARTHY.

Marriage Took Place at St. Monica's Rectory This Morning.

At St. Monica's rectory on Summer street this morning at 9 o'clock, Miss May L. McCarthy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. McCarthy of 107 South Main street, and George E. Zinder were married by the pastor of St. Monica's, Rev. F. M. McKenna. The bride was attended by her cousin, Miss Joanna McCarthy of Montpelier, and Alexander Emalie, a long-time friend of Mr. Zinder, acted as groomsmen. Mr. and Mrs. Zinder left the city over the Central Vermont railroad at 11:50 o'clock this forenoon on a honeymoon trip to Boston and other points. On their return, they will reside in Barre.

The bride is a popular Barre young woman, who has been employed for some time as an operator in the Barre office of the Vermont Telephone & Telegraph Co. Mr. Zinder is a granite cutter in the employ of Jones Brothers.

## TALK OF THE TOWN

James McDermott of Brookfield was a business visitor in the city to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gilman of Randolph were week-end visitors of friends in the city.

Mrs. W. F. Shepard of Washington street left this noon on a short business trip to New York.

J. E. Scott left the city last night for Cape Ann, Mass., where he has secured employment as a tool sharpener.

Mrs. John Oliver of upper Washington street went to Burlington last night to receive treatment at the Mary Fletcher hospital.

Mrs. H. S. Parks returned Saturday from Montpelier, where she was called Friday by the illness of her niece, Miss Rose Moore.

Rev. J. W. Barnett of the Congregational church left this noon for Randolph, where he will deliver an address before the men's club this evening.

Anthony H. Fasola of Berlin street left the city last night on a business trip through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky in the interest of the Excelsior Granite Co.

Charles Tonella and G. Abbiati of Milford, N. H., arrived in the city last night, having been called here by the death of Angelo Colombo of George street, who passed away Saturday afternoon. Natale Colombo of Northfield and Battista Colombo of South Ryegate, also of the deceased, and Mrs. Gusto Alioso, also of South Ryegate, a sister of Mr. Colombo, are in the city to attend the funeral, which is to be held Tuesday afternoon.

PRO AND CON  
OVER LIQUOR

Interesting Joint Debate on Prohibition and Local Option Held

KANSAS MAN UP-  
HELD THE FORMER

While Maine Man Took the Other Side of Spirited Verbal Contest

What is out of the liquor traffic? Its evil should be stripped and the traffic continued, said Rev. Clarence T. Wilson of Topeka, Kan., who argued state prohibition before a largely attended mass meeting in the opera house Sunday evening. Local option is the only regulatory remedy, said Editor E. F. Hanson of Belfast, Me., who brought to a focus his intimate experience with the Maine prohibitory law and its workings, in replying to Dr. Wilson in one of the most interesting forensic encounters ever listened to by a Barre audience.

Prohibition, legislative proscription of liquor, and local option as the only remedial measure yet to have the desired effect in the solution of the liquor problem were argued in a regulation debate under the auspices of the Ministers' union. Pastors of several of the city churches suspended their evening services and with their congregations adjourned to the opera house. In view of the fact that a proposed prohibition amendment is to be submitted to the electorate for referendum in March, the mass meeting served to assemble an audience quite evenly divided on the prohibition question. Dr. Wilson, a widely known Methodist divine, entered the lists against Mr. Hanson, many times mayor of his home city, and one of the most prominent protagonists of local option. Rev. J. W. Barnett, pastor of the Congregational church and president of the Ministers' union, acted as chairman, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. R. Reardon of the Universalist church. Each advocate was allowed 30 minutes for his main argument and 30 minutes for rebuttal. Dr. Wilson, who opened the debate, was given 15 minutes in which to close at the end of the rebuttals. Before the audience dispersed, the audience, united when it came to a manifestation of patriotism, it divided on one of the paramount issues of the day, sang "America" with unusual spirit.

No decision was made on the outcome of the debate. Instead, the Ministers' union chose to let the decision rest with the audience, and if the result of the debate, while far-reaching, were not immediately in evidence last night, it may be that the exercise of the franchise by those voters who listened through the debate will determine the decision when the polls are opened March 7. The jury will return its verdict on that day and it will not report a disagreement.

Suave, polished and possessing an intimate, first-hand knowledge of the liquor question in its various phases, Dr. Wilson of Topeka opened the debate. Oratorical power is his and he used it in presenting to his hearers his main argument in the first 30 minutes of the debate. No one questioned the sincerity of either speaker in the controversial clash. Certainly no one questioned Dr. Wilson and it was just as certain that Editor Hanson was deadly in earnest. It was a fair-minded audience and if one corner applauded inherent righteousness in one speaker's contention, it received satisfaction in a telling sally from the other. Dr. Wilson appeared more in the role of a casuist, working out the niceties of a moral question that is engrossing the attention of civilization to its very outposts. He was the accomplished dialectician, skilled in the synthetic process of bringing together the various elements in a bomb shell that he hurled into the local option camp.

Editor Hanson is the rough-and-ready debater and he proved it to the satisfaction of his auditors. Quick to grasp the fundamentals in his opponent's argument, he was equally quick with his replies in rebuttal. He knows Maine better than Admiral Peary knows the grain of the north pole. He has a potent, almost eerie knowledge of what he described as the pharisaical operation of the Maine prohibitory law. Schooled as a master of give-and-take polemics he showed himself to be a resource of more than ordinary depth, albeit having within him the power of ready speech, in short an opponent worthy of anyone's mettle.